United Nations E/2018/NGO/16

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
30 May 2018

Original: English

2018 session
28 July 2017–27 July 2018
Agenda item 5
High-level segment

Statement submitted by Roshd Foundation, a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council*

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* The present statement is issued without formal editing.

18-08698 (E) 140618

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Statement

"From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities"

Achieving sustainable development in human societies requires participation of all people around the world. Non-governmental organizations, governments and the United Nations should be unified to find appropriate and practicable strategies and action plans to make a resilient human society. The Sustainable Development Goals which have been adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 are a good example for this issue.

Surely, the first step for making a sustainable society is the recognition of abilities and potentials of each community to make future plans for brighter horizons. In fact, providing the opportunity of participation of indigenous people in the decisions and local affairs creates flexibility in that society. Furthermore, sustainability needs continuous education and improvement in the technologies.

Therefore, development of new technologies and Internet access should be considered significant criteria in achieving a sustainable society. NGOs, governments and the United Nations should provide an instruction or a platform which gives the possibility of transferring new sciences and practical approaches such as modern irrigation systems in agriculture, especially for deprived areas. Technology has the capacity to help people with becoming trained in new skills which are useful for their jobs which can reduce costs and increase production.

In the meanwhile, online education influences the process of sustainable development in deprived areas and creates the opportunity for NGOs and governments to move beyond executive restrictions and bureaucracy in order to provide education for all. The benefits of technology were demonstrated when Roshd Charity provided online educational classes for high school girl students in the deprived villages of Sistan and Balouchestan Provinces of Iran. Also, Roshd Charity Foundation has aimed to reduce social anomalies and poverty by helping to develop and preserve indigenous and local businesses. Holding tailoring and handicrafts workshops for women in the deprived areas are good examples of activities conducted by Roshd Foundation.

Moreover, various countries with preserving historical, cultural and traditional values of their society, can interact with other communities. In fact, tourism industry as a key factor for better recognition of potentials of societies, allows both the tourists and the local community a chance to experience other cultures, which broadens understanding. The main benefits of tourism are income creation and generation of sustainable jobs. In many places the introduction and development of tourism allows local people an opportunity for economic and educational growth that would not otherwise be available.

In addition, regarding SDG 17, global partnership for sustainable development has been noticeably underlined by the United Nations. However, local events held jointly by governments and the United Nations should engage local communities more. Furthermore, it seems that providing a complementary online interactive system that can increase the engagement of NGOs around the world is necessary.

Finally, achieving sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities is accessible by providing online communication for education and holding joint projects around the world.

18-08698